**Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO**

# 2024 Statewide Candidate Questionnaire

The Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO (WSLC) represents over 550,000 rank-and-file workers, represented by over [600 local unions](https://www.wslc.org/category/who-we-are/affiliated-unions/) and councils of 57 national and international unions from every corner of Washington’s economy. The WSLC is the largest labor organization in our state and is the only state organization representing all AFL-CIO unions.

The WSLC is the voice of Washington’s working families, and our endorsements require serious deliberation. Please answer all questions, sign on the last page, and consider signing the supplemental Statement of Principles. You are welcome to email or mail your completed questionnaire, but please make sure it is signed. You may add as much additional space as you need to answer the questions.

Upon receipt of your **completed and signed** questionnaire, you will be contacted with next steps and information to set up a candidate interview with a local Central Labor Council.

**Questionnaires should be returned to the attention of Osta Davis, Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO Political and Strategic Campaigns Director, at endorsements@wslc.org or 321 16th Ave South, Seattle, WA 98144.** You may also contact Osta at 206-817-1124 or odavis@wslc.org with questions.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful participation in the WSLC endorsement process.

# Campaign Information

**Candidate Name:**   **Pronouns:**

**Office Seeking:**   **District:** Please Choose One

**Party:**

**Incumbent  Challenger  Open Seat**

**Do you currently hold, or have you previously held public office(s)? Describe:**

**Have you received a Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO endorsement in the past? If so, for which office(s)?**

**Have you received any endorsement from unions/locals in this 2024 campaign cycle? If so, please list here.**

**Official Campaign Committee Name:**

**Campaign Address:**   **City:**   **State:**   **Zip Code:**

**Campaign Phone:**   **Campaign Email:**

**Campaign Website:**

**Social Media Handles:**

**Campaign Consultant:**   **Campaign Manager:**   **Email:**   **Phone:**

**Are You a Veteran? Yes  No**

**Are you now or have you ever been a union member? Yes  No**

**Please list union(s) and local(s):**

# **Rewriting the Rules of the Economy to Build a Better Future for Workers**

**The policy choices we make today determine whether working people share in the benefits of economic growth and technological progress. Statewide leadership must prioritize policies that equip workers and families with tools to improve their lives.**

**Please respond to the following questions to support your stance on these key issues:**

## **How do you plan on using the office of the Washington State Auditor to support working people?**

### Why should your candidacy earn the endorsement of the Washington State Labor Council and its members?

### Who do you consider your base of support for your election? Why and how will those groups work to elect you?

# Union Representation:

U.S. Supreme Court rulings have undermined workers’ abilities to negotiate with their employers. By imposing “Right-to-Work” policies from the bench, the Courts have forced unions to provide services for free to all workers, regardless of whether or not they pay union fees, effectively weakening their negotiating power.

**How would you respond to “Right-to-Work” attacks in Washington State and demonstrate your support for workers to join together to strengthen their voices at work?**

**Do you commit to supporting public employees’ contract fights?**

# Office of the Auditor:

**What do you think is the primary function of the State Auditor’s office? What is the first audit you think should be conducted?**

**What role should the Auditor have in analyzing state procurement practices?**

**How an Auditor publicly discusses taxpayer dollars matters. How do you intend to talk to the public about how our state is spending revenue?**

**Privatization, usually intended to ease strained public budgets, very directly affects workers and our long-term economy. The quality of services provided by contract workers may not be as consistent as that of experienced government employees. In addition, taxpayers can end up paying for the cuts in more indirect ways. How would you balance the need for short-term budget cuts that could be found in privatization with the long-term costs to the budget?**

# Tax Code:

*Tax loopholes are as much a part of Washington's biennial budget as operating and capital appropriations. These tax loopholes are often created for industries with the intended purpose of creating or retaining jobs. These tax exemptions (existing or new) should be evaluated frequently to see if they are meeting the intended goals and the tax exemptions should sunset in five years. Effective tax exemptions should be affirmatively reauthorized by the Legislature. We support job requirements and clawback provisions that would require companies to pay back tax exemptions with a penalty if they do not meet the goals of the exemption, and a provision that creates a sunset review for all tax exemptions after five years.*

**What is your position on job creation and clawback provisions?**

**How should the Auditor’s office play a role in these provisions?**

# Racial Justice:

Racism is a system of oppression, designed to divide the working class so the wealthy elite can consolidate their wealth and power at the very top. At the WSLC, we believe this to be true. Since 2015, WSLC delegates have passed three resolutions affirming this, and we have committed ourselves to doing the work to become an anti-racist organization. Union membership helps close the racial wealth gap: as long as it exists, the racial wealth gap hurts us all. In a study by American Progress, over a 10-year period: “Black households with a union member have median wealth that is more than three times the median wealth of nonunion Black households. Hispanic households with a union member have median wealth that is more than five times the median wealth of nonunion Hispanic households.” We are moving an anti-racist agenda in our unions because economic justice and racial justice are inextricably linked.

**As an elected official how will you commit yourself to supporting policies to make sure that the economy works for people of all backgrounds, especially for Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities?**

**How will you address the economic disparities that permeate our state and what policies would you propose to lift up economic opportunities for BIPOC families?**

**Which anti-racists groups and community organizations have you partnered with and how have anti-racist principles guided your public service?**

# Public Services:

As a labor movement, solidarity and supporting one another is a fundamental value. Public services are a crucial part of our social safety net and benefit our communities as a whole. Often they are used to offer support for people and communities during their most vulnerable times, and often help keep families and individuals out of poverty. Our state employees, the very individuals that provide the safety net, take on unsustainable workloads due to understaffing and causing many to leave public service for less stressful work at the same or higher pay.

**What potential solutions do you think would improve employment retention in the state's public services workforce?**

**How would you advocate for a healthy and thriving work environment for state employees?**

**Would you support paying state employees a thriving wage?**

**Candidate Signature:**

**Date Signed:**

**STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

***The Chance to Make Life Better, The Freedom to Join a Union***

As a candidate for public office, I am committed to making our community a better place to live and work. I support efforts to raise living standards and to promote good schools, safe streets, a trained workforce, and a vibrant local economy. I know that the quality of life in our community depends on the quality of our jobs, and I recognize that unions give employees a voice at work, improve productivity, and contribute to the economic vitality of our community.

I respect the right of every working person to pursue equality, opportunity, and a better life for themselves and their families. I understand that the decision to join together in a union belongs exclusively to employees, not their employers. I believe that any employer that uses legal or unlawful tactics designed to harass, threaten, or fire workers for trying to form a union, does its employees and our community a great disservice. I fully support the principle, guaranteed under federal law, that employees are entitled to a free choice to form a union without interference, intimidation, or fear of reprisals.

I am committed to stand by working families that are trying to make life better by forming unions. I will urge employers to remain neutral, respect the choices of their employees, and voluntarily recognize a union when a majority of workers have indicated the desire to join one. I will stand with striking workers who want a fair return on their work. I will monitor what goes on in workplaces in our community and speak out when employers abuse their power.

Additionally, I am committed to supporting union workers during my campaign and will use a union printer and sign shop for printing needs, and work with union stage employees for campaign events

On behalf of all working families in our community, I will raise my voice to help restore the chance to make life better and the freedom to join a union.

This is my commitment.

**Name (print):**

**Signed:**

**Office Held/Sought:**

**Date:**